



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7440

January 7, 2009

**MIDLAND JURY CONVICTS LOCAL WOMAN OF FEDERAL NARCOTICS CHARGES
IN CONNECTION WITH OVERDOSE DEATH**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that a federal jury in Midland has found Tiofila Santillana guilty of federal charges in connection with the overdose death of a 21-year-old man in April of 2008. She faces a mandatory minimum of 20 years in federal prison when she is sentenced later this year.

In July 2008, Tiofila Santillana, 46, and Emily Micah Suckarieh, 22, were charged by federal grand jury indictment with distribution of controlled substances. Suckarieh plead guilty and is awaiting sentencing. According to the indictment 21-year-old Brandon Moore was taken to Midland Memorial Hospital on April 10, 2008, after friends could not rouse him from sleep despite several hours of effort. Moore was placed on a ventilator and admitted to intensive care, where he never regained consciousness. He died on April 23, 2008, of acute mixed drug intoxication. Santillana was charged with distributing the methadone, and Suckarieh the benzodiazepine, or "Xanax", that were consumed by Moore before he lost consciousness.

The Midland Police Department and the Midland County Sheriff's Office partnered with the Drug Enforcement Administration to conduct this investigation. Assistant United States Attorney John Klassen prosecuted the case for the Government.

#####